



700.20 Mounted Patrol Unit

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POLICY

The Mounted Enforcement Team is a specialized assignment whose primary responsibility is to provide mounted assistance in support of Operations for crowd control, criminal activity suppression, search and rescue or other special events as requested by the Sheriff's Office.

PROCEDURE

A. Criteria

1. Applicant must be 18 years old or older
2. Must own your own horse.
3. Horse must possess good ground manners and have been under saddle for a minimum of six months
4. Applicant must pass a certification test and maintain passing score twice a year.
5. Applicant must know the limitations of their horse
6. Applicant must wear specific uniform during any deployment
7. Applicant must attend monthly meetings.
8. Applicant must attend monthly training days.

B. Duties

1. Duties include team applications in the following:
 - a. The Volunteer Mounted Patrol is made up of men and women of the community who possess horse riding skills and who are willing to volunteer their own time to assist patrol officers at malls, parks, and special events. Their duty is to notify Deputies of any suspicious activity. If any suspicious activity is observed, they will notify the designated deputy immediately. The mounted patrol does not get involved in the apprehension of suspects or arrests. They must maintain their distance and let Deputies conduct their investigation.
 - b. Crowd control at public demonstrations or protests.
 - c. Crowd and traffic control and security at special events.
 - d. Mounted patrol to suppress criminal activity.
 - e. Mounted patrol within business districts.
 - f. Dignitary protection details.
 - g. Search and Rescue Details
 - h. Mutual Aid Response

C. Call-Out

1. Requests for assistance from the Mounted Enforcement Team shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the District Commander, Chief Deputy or the Sheriff.
 - a. Following approval of the request, the Team Leader of the Mounted Enforcement Team shall coordinate all functions with the Uniform Supervisor at scene or assigned.
 - b. The Team Leader or the designated Team Member shall be placed in charge of the Mounted Detail and shall ensure that:
 1. The appropriate incident/supplement reports are completed and properly submitted concerning any Law Enforcement actions conducted by Mounted Team members.

D. Selection of Team Members

1. Employees:
 - a. Personnel who wish to be considered for the Mounted Enforcement Team shall submit a Memorandum and resume through their chain of command to the Chief Deputy. Personnel should understand that the assignment is in addition to their regular/expected duties.
 - b. In addition, all newly selected team members shall be placed in a probationary status regarding the team for a period of one (1) year. During the one-year probationary period, the member may be dismissed from the team upon recommendations of the Chief Deputy.
2. Civilian Members:
 - a. Civilians who are interested in becoming a part of the Mounted Patrol must complete an approved application for membership.
 - b. A background will be conducted on each person who desires membership and will pass a complete background investigation.
 - c. Upon acceptance all newly selected team members shall be placed in a probationary status for a period of one (1) year. During the one-year probationary period, the member may be dismissed from the team upon recommendations of the Chief Deputy.

E. Training of Team Members

1. Specialized Training – members of the Mounted Enforcement Team shall, periodically, receive specialized training. Requests for equestrian training shall be processed for funding and school selection and approved through established agency procedures.
2. In-Service Training
 - a. Periodic and regularly scheduled in-service training shall be conducted at the discretion of the Team Leader. The location and curriculum shall vary for each training session. Instructors specialized in areas of team related functions shall be selected in accordance with training needs.
 - b. In-Service Training shall include, but not be limited to:
 1. Equitation
 2. Team formation
 3. Obstacles
 4. Grooming
 5. Tack maintenance.
 - c. Each Team Member shall be required to maintain equitation proficiency and to maintain their mounts in good physical condition. Team Members

who fail to maintain these standards may be formally suspended from all Mounted Enforcement Team functions and shall be subject to progressive discipline, including dismissal from the team, if proficiency levels continue to be sub-standard.

F. Conduct

1. Members of the Sheriff's Mounted Enforcement Team shall be held accountable to the Rules, Regulations and Standard Operating Procedures of the Sheriff's Office.
2. While in the performance of any Mounted Enforcement Team detail, including training. Members shall not permit unauthorized persons to ride or sit on their horses.

G. Equipment

1. Saddles and Equipment

- a. Maintenance – Each Team Member shall be responsible for the routine maintenance of issued equipment, to include saddles, tack, and accessories. Equipment shall be subject to periodic inspection by the Team Leader and assistant Team Leader.
- b. When participating in Mounted Enforcement Team functions, saddles, tack, and accessories shall be clean and neat in appearance.
- c. Saddles, tack, and accessories for all Mounted Enforcement Team members shall be black in color or as designated by the Sheriff.

2. Horses and Equipment

- a. General appearance and care of horses.
 1. When participating in Mounted Enforcement Team functions, horses shall be clean and neat in appearance and shall be well groomed.
 2. Mounted Enforcement Team horses shall be maintained in good physical condition, and Team Members shall possess current coggins papers on all horses participating in Mounted Enforcement Team functions.
 3. Mounted Enforcement Team horses shall be subject to inspection for appearance and conditions by the Team Leader and assistant Team Leader. Members who fail to maintain their horse in proper condition shall be suspended from the Mounted Enforcement Team activities.

3. Uniforms – The basic uniform shall be as approved by the Sheriff. The Team Leader shall designate uniforms used at a specific operational deployment. The wearing of the uniform shall be in accordance/compliance with all established procedures.

- a. Short sleeved Uniform Shirt (gray with Mounted Patrol patches) shall be the uniform of the day to be worn year-round by Mounted Enforcement Team members.
- b. Pants shall be either blue or black denim jeans.
- c. Footwear – shall be black in color boots.
- d. Hat – shall be a black in color hat or a baseball style cap, green in color.
- e. Leather Gear and Weapon – shall be worn and/or carried in compliance with established procedures.

1. Volunteer members of the Mounted Enforcement Team will carry NO firearms. Only certified Law Enforcement Officers or Auxiliary Deputy Sheriff's approved, shall carry weapons/firearms in conjunction with their duties. All carriage and/or use will be in accordance with established procedures/policies.
 - f. Foul Weather Gear – shall be as designated by the Team Leader.
- H. Records
1. After Action Report – following an operational incident or detail involving the Mounted Enforcement Team, the Team Leader shall prepare and submit a report which shall include the following:
 - a. All reports relating to the incident.
 - b. Copies of written logs relating to the incident.
 - c. Photographs of the incident scene, if available.
 - d. Analysis of the detail.
 2. The Supervisor or his/her designee shall also prepare a supplement to the original Incident Report, if needed for operational or administrative purposes. The Supplement Report shall include the names of the Mounted Enforcement Team members present at the scene and a narrative of tasks accomplished by the team.
 3. Training – a record of all training sessions shall be maintained by the Team Leader or a designated Team Member. This shall include copies of attendance records, training schedules, training outlines, and proficiency records of each Team Member in all phases of team activities and training. Inspections will be completed by Training or his designee.

DEFINITIONS

MOUNTED ENFORCEMENT TEAM LEADER – A specially trained Law Enforcement Deputy, who has been assigned to coordinate operations of the Mounted Enforcement Team.

MOUNTED ENFORCEMENT TEAM MEMBER – Designated Deputies and/or Civilian Volunteers, who have been specially trained to provide mounted assistance.

REFERENCES

State/Federal Regulations:
None

CFA:
None

Forms:
None

Other Policy/ Procedure References:
None